

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 304 without my signature.

For the past two years I have vetoed similar measures because these bills would allow the media to glamorize murderers and thereby once again traumatize crime victims and their families.

This year I directed the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to address the media access issues by adopting new regulations. Through this process my administration met with stakeholders from both crime victims groups and groups supporting media access to address concerns on both sides. These regulations are pending approval and public comment at the Office of Administrative Law.

While the regulations do not go as far as the provisions in this bill, I believe the regulations provide more clear and appropriate access to our prisons and preserve the balance with crime victims and their families. I believe these regulations should be given a chance to work.

To the extent that stakeholders believe more media access can be provided while respecting the concerns of crime victims and their families, I encourage them to participate in the public comment period of the regulation process which will take place over the next two months.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger